



**CITY OF LODI
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

AGENDA TITLE: Approve Revised Specifications and Authorize Advertisement for Bids for Maintenance of Landscape Areas for 2005

MEETING DATE: December 15, 2004

PREPARED BY: Public Works Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve the revised specifications and authorize advertisement for bids for Maintenance of Landscape Areas for 2005.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This project was recently approved by Council for advertising and bids. Upon examination of the bid results, the costs had escalated from the current annual cost of approximately \$141,000 to amounts in excess of \$300,000. Upon staff's recommendation, the City Manager rejected the two bids based upon mathematical errors within the bids submitted and excessive cost.

The Street Division of the Public Works Department has managed landscape maintenance contracts since 1979. The existing contract expires December 31, 2004. The current contractor has agreed to continue at the current contract price for two more months until a new contract is awarded.

It has become apparent through the last bidding process that the only way to keep the overall cost of maintaining the landscape comparable to current costs is to significantly reduce the frequency of certain maintenance activities. This will adversely impact the overall appearance of the sites.

This project provides for the contract maintenance of 142 landscaped sites within the City of Lodi and at the White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility. This bid has been changed to three separate groups: Group A – Maintenance of Turf and Miscellaneous Landscape Areas 2005, Group B – Maintenance of Lower Sacramento Road and Adjacent Landscape Areas 2005, and Group C – Maintenance of Cherokee Lane and Adjacent Landscape Areas 2005. The groups may be awarded separately to multiple contractors or together as one contract. The bid documents contain an additional optional bid item for irrigation system maintenance.

APPROVED:

Janet S. Keeter, Interim City Manager

The following table compares the work frequency in the proposed bid vs. the previous bid:

Site/Description	Proposed Bid	Previous Bid
Group A – Turf and Landscape Areas - mowing, pruning, weed control, leaf and litter pickup	Per occurrence, based on 40 visits, reduction in mowing during winter months, edging once per month, irrigation maintenance optional.	Per occurrence, based on 52 site visits which included mowing, pruning, edging, leaf and litter removal, and irrigation maintenance.
Group B – Lower Sacramento Road and Adjacent Areas - pruning, weed control, leaf and litter pickup	Per occurrence, based on once a month frequency for leaf and litter removal, pruning once per 3 months, irrigation maintenance optional.	Per occurrence, based on 12 site visits which included leaf and litter removal, pruning, irrigation maintenance.
Group C – Cherokee Lane and Adjacent Areas - pruning, weed control, leaf and litter pickup	Same as Group B.	Same as Group B.

The specifications include one-time turf aeration (this was not done last year). Fertilizer application and reseeding has been eliminated and may be done by City forces as time and budget permits.

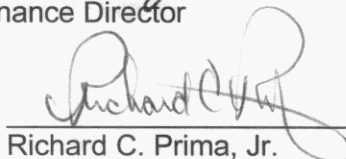
The City will have the option of evaluating the cost of irrigation system maintenance and either awarding the work to the contractor or doing the work in-house at the expense of other Street maintenance activities.

The specifications are on file in the Public Works Department. The contract is for one year with an option to renew for an additional year if mutually agreeable.

FUNDING: The money for this project will be coming from the 2004/05 Operating Budget (General Fund, Utility and Transit accounts).

Project Estimate: \$225,000
Budgeted: 2004/2005 fiscal year
Planned Bid Opening: January 6, 2005


James R. Krueger, Finance Director


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